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In the Claims:

Please cancel [✓]claims 1-41 without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please add new claims 42-81 as follows:

- 42. (New) A method for inhibiting tumor invasion or metastasis in a subject which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a soluble Receptor for Advanced Glycation Endproducts (RAGE)--
- 43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the soluble RAGE comprises a polypeptide having a sequence identical to the sequence of human RAGE (SEQ ID NO:1) beginning from alanine at position 1 and ending at serine at position 332 of human RAGE.--
- 44. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the soluble RAGE comprises a polypeptide having a sequence identical to the leader sequence of human RAGE (SEQ ID NO:2) beginning at methionine at position 1 to glycine at position 22 linked to the alanine at position 1 of SEQ ID NO:1 and ending at isoleucine at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1.--
- 45. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the administration is effected by introducing into the subject a replicable vector containing a nucleic acid encoding the soluble RAGE.--

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- 46. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the tumor is a neuronal tumor.--
- 47. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the replicable vector is a plasmid, an attenuated virus, a phage, a phagemid or a linear nucleic acid.--
- 48. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is administered to the subject during the administration of the soluble RAGE.--
- 49. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the administration is via intralesional, intraperitoneal, intramuscular or intravenous injection; infusion; intrathecal administration; subcutaneous administration; liposome-mediated delivery; or topical, nasal, oral, ocular or otic delivery.--
- 50. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the soluble RAGE consists essentially of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence identical to a V domain of a naturally occurring soluble RAGE.--
- 51. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the soluble RAGE consists essentially of a polypeptide having an amino acid identical to a C domain of a naturally occurring soluble RAGE.--
- 52. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the subject is a mammal.--
- 53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the mammal is a

human.--

--54. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the soluble RAGE is administered daily, weekly or monthly.--

--55. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the therapeutically effective amount comprises a dose from about 0.000001 mg/kg body weight to about 100 mg/kg body weight.--

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--56. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the therapeutically effective amount comprises a dose of from about 100 ng/day/kg body weight to about 200 mg/day/kg body weight.--

--57. (New) A method for identifying an agent which inhibits tumor invasion in a local cellular environment which comprises:

- (a) providing a solid support coated with amphoterin;
- (b) contacting the solid support with a tumor cell which expresses receptor for advanced glycation endproducts (RAGE) under appropriate cell culture conditions for cell migration and growth;
- (c) admixing to the tumor cell culture of step (b) (an agent) to be tested;
- (d) determining the amount of spreading of the tumor cells on the solid support, and
- (e) comparing the amount of spreading of the tumor cells

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--58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the tumor cell is a eukaryotic cell.--

--59. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the tumor cell is a cell taken from a subject.--

--60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the subject is a human, a mouse, a rat, a dog or a non-human primate.--

--61. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the agent comprises a peptide, a peptidomimetic, a nucleic acid, a synthetic organic molecule, an inorganic molecule, a carbohydrate, a lipid, an antibody or fragment thereof, or a small molecule.--

--62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.--

--63. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.--

--64. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the fragment of the antibody comprises a Fab fragment.--

--65. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the fragment of

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- 66. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the peptide is a synthetic peptide or a peptide analog.--
- 67. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the peptide comprises at least a portion of the sequence -Asp-Ala-Glu-Phe-Arg-His-Asp-Ser-Gly-Tyr-Glu-Val-His-His-Gln-Lys-Leu-Val-Phe-Phe-Ala-Glu-Asp-Val-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Gly-Ala-Ile-Ile-Gly-Leu-Met-Val-Gly-Gly-Val-Val- (Seq. I.D. No. 3).--
- 68. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the peptide comprises at least a portion of the sequence -Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Gly-Ala-Ile-Ile-Gly-Leu-Met- (Seq. I.D. No. 4).--
- 69. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the peptide has the amino acid sequence A-Q-N-I-T-A-R-I-G-E-P-L-V-L-K-C-K-G-A-P-K-K-P-P-Q-R-L-E-W-K (Seq. I.D. No. 5).--
- 70. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the peptide has the amino acid sequence A-Q-N-I-T-A-R-I-G-E (Seq. I.D. No. 6).--
- 71. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent is a soluble human RAGE.--
- 72. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent is an extracellular portion of human RAGE.--
- 73. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent

--81. (New) A method for inhibiting tumor invasion or